

## § 702.15

of the current period for which cumulative production is calculated. A legally binding agreement for the future sale of other minerals is sufficient to demonstrate the above standard.

(2) If either coal or other minerals are transferred or sold by the operator to a related entity for its use or sale, the transaction must be made for legitimate business purposes.

### § 702.15 Conditions of exemption and right of inspection and entry.

A person conducting activities covered by this part shall:

(a) Maintain on-site or at other locations available to authorized representatives of the regulatory authority and the Secretary information necessary to verify the exemption including, but not limited to, commercial use and sales information, extraction tonnages, and a copy of the exemption application and exemption approved by the regulatory authority;

(b) Notify the regulatory authority upon the completion of the mining operation or permanent cessation of all coal extraction activities; and

(c) Conduct operations in accordance with the approved application or when authorized to extract coal under § 702.11(b) or § 702.11(e)(3) prior to submittal or approval of an exemption application, in accordance with the standards of this part for Federal programs and on Indian lands or in accordance with counterpart provisions when included in State programs.

(d) Authorized representatives of the regulatory authority and the Secretary shall have the right to conduct inspections of operations claiming exemption under this part.

(e) Each authorized representative of the regulatory authority and the Secretary conducting an inspection under this part:

(1) Shall have a right of entry to, upon, and through any mining and reclamation operations without advance notice or a search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials;

(2) May, at reasonable times and without delay, have access to and copy any records relevant to the exemption; and

(3) Shall have a right to gather physical and photographic evidence to doc-

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ument conditions, practices or violations at a site.

(f) No search warrant shall be required with respect to any activity under paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, except that a search warrant may be required for entry into a building.

### § 702.16 Stockpiling of minerals.

(a) *Coal.* Coal extracted and stockpiled may be excluded from the calculation of cumulative production until the time of its sale, transfer to a related entity or use:

(1) Up to an amount equaling a 12-month supply of the coal required for future sale, transfer or use as calculated based upon the average annual sales, transfer and use from the mining area over the two preceding years; or

(2) For a mining area where coal has been extracted for a period of less than two years, up to an amount that would represent a 12-month supply of the coal required for future sales, transfer or use as calculated based on the average amount of coal sold, transferred or used each month.

(b) *Other minerals.* (1) The regulatory authority shall disallow all or part of an operator's tonnages of stockpiled other minerals for purposes of meeting the requirements of this part if the operator fails to maintain adequate and verifiable records of the mining area of origin, the disposition of stockpiles or if the disposition of the stockpiles indicates the lack of commercial use or market for the minerals.

(2) The regulatory authority may only allow an operator to utilize tonnages of stockpiled other minerals for purposes of meeting the requirements of this part if:

(i) The stockpiling is necessary to meet market conditions or is consistent with generally accepted industry practices; and

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the stockpiled other minerals do not exceed a 12-month supply of the mineral required for future sales as approved by the regulatory authority on the basis of the exemption application.

(3) The regulatory authority may allow an operator to utilize tonnages of stockpiled other minerals beyond the

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12-month limit established in paragraph (b)(2) of this section if the operator can demonstrate to the regulatory authority's satisfaction that the additional tonnage is required to meet future business obligations of the operator, such as may be demonstrated by a legally binding agreement for future delivery of the minerals.

(4) The regulatory authority may periodically revise the other mineral stockpile tonnage limits in accordance with the criteria established by paragraphs (b) (2) and (3) of this section based on additional information available to the regulatory authority.

### § 702.17 Revocation and enforcement.

(a) Regulatory authority responsibility. The regulatory authority shall conduct an annual compliance review of the mining area, utilizing the annual report submitted pursuant to § 702.18, an on-site inspection and any other information available to the regulatory authority.

(b) If the regulatory authority has reason to believe that a specific mining area was not exempt under the provisions of this part or counterpart provisions of the State regulatory program at the end of the previous reporting period, is not exempt, or will be unable to satisfy the exemption criteria at the end of the current reporting period, the regulatory authority shall notify the operator that the exemption may be revoked and the reason(s) therefor. The exemption will be revoked unless the operator demonstrates to the regulatory authority within 30 days that the mining area in question should continue to be exempt.

(c)(1) If the regulatory authority finds that an operator has not demonstrated that activities conducted in the mining area qualify for the exemption, the regulatory authority shall revoke the exemption and immediately notify the operator and intervenors. If a decision is made not to revoke an exemption, the regulatory authority shall immediately notify the operator and intervenors.

(2) Any adversely affected person may request administrative review of a decision whether to revoke an exemption within 30 days of the notification of such decision in accordance with

procedures established under 43 CFR 4.1280 when OSM is the regulatory authority or under corresponding State procedures when a State is the regulatory authority.

(3) A petition for administrative review filed under 43 CFR 4.1280 or under corresponding State procedures shall not suspend the effect of a decision whether to revoke an exemption.

(d) Direct enforcement. (1) An operator mining in accordance with the terms of an approved exemption shall not be cited for violations of the regulatory program which occurred prior to the revocation of the exemption.

(2) An operator who does not conduct activities in accordance with the terms of an approved exemption and knows or should know such activities are not in accordance with the approved exemption shall be subject to direct enforcement action for violations of the regulatory program which occur during the period of such activities.

(3) Upon revocation of an exemption or denial of an exemption application, an operator shall stop conducting surface coal mining operations until a permit is obtained and shall comply with the reclamation standards of the applicable regulatory program with regard to conditions, areas and activities existing at the time of revocation or denial.

### § 702.18 Reporting requirements.

(a)(1) Following approval by the regulatory authority of an exemption for a mining area, the person receiving the exemption shall, for each mining area, file a written report annually with the regulatory authority containing the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) The report shall be filed no later than 30 days after the end of the 12-month period as determined in accordance with the definition of *Cumulative measurement period* in § 702.5 of this part.

(3) The information in the report shall cover:

(i) Annual production of coal and other minerals and annual revenue derived from coal and other minerals during the preceding 12-month period, and